

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tire inflation and handling assistance device adapted for use with a hub and tire assembly comprising a hub and a tire, the device comprising:

a support member;

a hub engagement and stop structure mounted on said support member and pivotable between a first substantially horizontal position for supporting a the hub and tire assembly ~~comprising a tire and a hub~~ and facilitating pressurization and inflation of the tire to seal the tire to the hub and a second tilted position for engaging solely a central opening of the hub of the hub and tire assembly when the hub and tire assembly is positioned adjacent to and leaned onto the hub engagement and stop structure, wherein the second tilted position facilitates engagement of or removal of the hub and tire assembly to or from the hub engagement and stop structure while the tire is on or near the ground ~~and~~, wherein the central opening of the hub is over the support member when the hub and tire assembly is in the first substantially horizontal position, and wherein the hub and tire assembly is solely supported by the hub engagement and stop structure.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The tire inflation and handling assistance device as recited in claim 1 wherein an angle of pivot between said first position and said second position is in the range of from about 55 degrees to about 70 degrees of displacement from a horizontal position to enable the hub and tire assembly to be tilted to and from engagement with said hub engagement and stop structure and to enable said hub engagement and stop structure and supported hub and tire assembly to move to and from a substantially horizontal position.

4. (previously presented) The tire inflation and handling assistance device as recited in claim 1 wherein an angle of pivot between said first position and said second position is about 65 degrees of displacement from a horizontal position to enable the hub and tire assembly to be tilted to and from engagement with said hub engagement and stop structure and to enable said hub engagement and stop structure and supported hub and tire assembly to move to and from a horizontal position.
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The tire inflation and handling assistance device as recited in claim 1 wherein said hub engagement and stop structure further comprises at least three plate sections for solely supporting said hub and tire assembly at the central opening of said hub.
8. (previously presented) The tire inflation and handling assistance device as recited in claim 1 wherein said hub engagement and stop structure is designed to extend at least partially through the central opening of the hub.
9. (previously presented) The tire inflation and handling assistance device as recited in claim 1 wherein said angle of pivot between said first position and said second position is in the range of from about 50 degrees to about 75 degrees of displacement from a horizontal position to enable the hub and tire assembly to be tilted to and from engagement with the hub engagement and stop structure and to enable said hub engagement and stop structure and supported hub and tire assembly to move to and from a horizontal position.

10. (previously presented) The tire inflation and handling assistance device adapted for use with a hub and tire assembly comprising a hub and a tire, as recited in claim 1, wherein said hub and tire assembly, when engaged to said hub engagement and stop structure, has a center of gravity to one side of a pivot axis of the hub engagement and stop structure in a direction that ~~biases~~ tilts the hub and tire assembly toward the horizontal position.